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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(February 22 - March 21, 1981)

April 1981

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Gerald Cady

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Sahara Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

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Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa

(22 February - 21 March 1981)*

AFRICA GENERAL

African Socialist International Criticized

(Summary) The inaugural congress of the African Socialist International (ASI), within whose framework the African democratic socialist parties intend to unite, is to be held in Tunis in late February. The proclaimed aims of the ASI are to persuade Western ruling circles of the need for greater flexibility in dealing with developing countries and, on the otherhand, to prove to the newly independent African nations that a new partnership can be established with their former colonial rulers. And the founders of the ASI reject the concept of a class struggle, the major tenet of scientific socialism, the political basis of many African socialist parties. In this manner, the ideology of the ASI is more akin to capitalism and is inimical to Africa's interest. (22 February 1981, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #041, 3 March 1981, pp. CCI-3.)

Reagan Administration's African Policy

(Excerpt) Mozambican President S. Machel said that independent Africa and the Organization of African Unity should scrutinize every pernicious consequence of the new American policy based on President Reagan's linking of the liberation movement with terrorism. (19 March 1981, p. 5)

Conference in Addis Ababa

(Text) The second conference of African ministers of transport, communication, and planning completed its work in Addis Ababa. In the summary document made public after the conference, the participants underlined the necessity to develop and execute national and regional transport and communication projects. (20 March 1981, p. 1)

AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

Brezhnev's Greetings

(Excerpt) I warmly greet the participants of the 13th session of the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization who have assembled in the capital of Democratic Yemen to discuss the current problems of the national liberation struggle and defense of peace and the security of the peoples. (21 March 1981, p. 1)

*Not including 27 February.

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Council of Ministers Meeting

(Summary) Work got underway at the Organization of African Unity's Council of Ministers Meeting. The session was called to order by F. Desta, Deputy General Secretary of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) of Ethiopia. He urged the participants to unify as part of an effort of all progressive and peace-loving nations of the world to counter the intrigues of international imperialism. In particular, the Ethiopian representative condemned the attempt by the imperialists to link the liberation movements to international terrorism. He also pointed out the great danger that the imperialists' military bases in the Indian Ocean posed to the region's peace.

This OAU meeting is expected to deal with a series of economic and political issues, including the plan regarding Namibia, recently approved by the OAU's Liberation Committee in Arusha. (25 February 1981, p. 8)

Ministers' Meeting

(Summary) The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) concluded their talks in Addis Ababa on 2 March 1981. A series of political and economic issues were discussed and several resolutions were agreed to by the participants. Important among these was a denunciation of the imperialist attempt to label as international terrorism the national liberation movements of Africa. The Namibian people struggling for independence were also given resolute support, and the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was condemned for its aggressive activities against neighboring states. It was decided to provide the Namibian people and frontline states that have been subjected to attacks by the RSA with all-round assistance. Other resolutions called for the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and the establishment of a new economic order in Africa. (3 March 1981, p. 8)

US INTERESTS IN AFRICA

CIA Activities in Africa

(Summary) According to the Mozambican newspaper Noticias, the history of the CIA has been one of overthrows, intervention, and political murder. The CIA is one of the major instruments of American expansionism and imperialism added the paper. And the CIA's recent activity in Mozambique, that of spies with ties to the Republic of South Africa dedicated to the toppling of the progressive regime, is typical of its operations in Africa. (11 March 1981, p. 5)

CIA Scored

(Summary) The Times of Zambia has labeled the CIA a weapon of United States' policy of interventionism. The newspaper said that after President Reagan came out in support of the racist regime of South Africa, the frontline states began to look closely at the activities of the America spy organization operated by the US embassies. President Reagan, the paper continued, has given the green light to operations by the CIA in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola, Tanzania, and Zambia. (11 March 1981, p. 5)

Lifting of Clark Amendment

(Summary) The Reagan Administration has notified Congress that it intends to request the lifting of the Clark Amendment--the 5-year ban on secret aid to rebel groups in Angola. This amendment, which bans the dispatch of arms or cash to puppet terrorist organizations like the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), has really only been a fig leaf for Washington. In the years since its passage in 1976, the CIA and other American agencies have sent arms to the mercenary gangs by way of the racist Republic of South Africa. (12 March 1981, p. 5)

Southern African Complications

(Excerpt) The intention of the new American Administration to begin openly providing assistance to reactionary marionette groups in southern Africa, in particular the National Union for the Independence of Angola (UNITA), will bring about increased tensions in this region, and indefinitely delay the resolution of the question of independence for Namibia, presently illegally occupied by the Republic of South Africa. (14 March 1981, p. 4)

ANGOLA

South African Military Strikes

(Summary) South African military forces, operating out of illegally occupied Namibian territory, continued their aggressive activities against Angola according to a statement issued by the Angolan Defense Ministry. It was reported that from 10 February to 16 February South African troops, with air, artillery, and armor support, struck the southern provinces of Angola where they killed hundreds of peaceful citizens, destroyed a metal bridge, and inflicted serious economic destruction. (23 February 1981, p. 7)

Victory Scored by Angolan Army

(Text) Units of the National Liberation Army of Angola drove South African troops from Villa Nova, located 300 kilometers from the Namibian border in the province of Cuando Cubango. (25 February 1981, p. 8)

MPLA Documentary

(Text) The documentary film "Poetry of the Struggle" produced by Angolan cinematographers and depicting the accomplishments of A. Neto, founder of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Workers Party and the state of Angola, had its premier in a theatre in Luanda. (26 February 1981, p. 8)

Meeting with Brezhnev

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, met with J. dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola and head of the Angolan delegation to the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, at the Kremlin on 26 February. Brezhnev warmly welcomed dos Santos and assured him that the USSR would, as it had in the past, extend Leninist friendship and solidarity to Angola. (28 February 1981, p. 1)

MPLA Plenum Held

(Text) A plenum meeting of the MPLA's Central Committee, devoted to internal party and governmental questions, was held from 3 to 5 March. The participants studied the government plan for economic and social development for 1981 and sent it to the National Assembly for examination. The plenum also elected a nine-member Secretariat to be headed by Jose dos Santos. (6 March 1981, p. 5)

Political School Graduates

(Summary) The National Party School of Angola has graduated another group of cadres. The majority of the graduates are involved in responsible work in provincial committees of the MPLA-Labor Party or are teaching workers in regional party schools. (12 March 81, p. 4)

People's Assembly

(Summary) The second session of the Angolan People's Assembly has completed its work. The members of the assembly, the highest law-making body in the nation, worked on the budget and the social-economic development plans and discussed the problems of workers' legislation. (13 March 1981, p. 1)

BENIN

World Revolutionary Movement Assayed

(Excerpt) According to a communique issued after a plenum meeting of the Central Committee of the Party of the Popular Revolution in Benin, the revolutionary forces of the world continue to score victories of liberation from foreign domination despite destabilizing attempts on the part of the imperialists. (11 March 1981, p. 4)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Presidential Election

(Text) The first presidential election to be held in the Central African Republic got underway. Nearly one million people have the right to vote in this contest. (16 March 1981, p. 1)

COMORO ISLANDS

Coup Attempt

(Summary) According to press reports out of Mauritius and Reunion, an attempted coup was staged on the Comoro Islands. The plotters were centered in a military garrison in Mitsudz, located about ten kilometers from the capital city

of Moroni. It was also reported that French mercenaries were leading members of the coup attempt that left seven dead. The coup organizers were either arrested or fled the country. (14 March 1981, p. 5)

CONGO

Moscow Meeting

(Summary) On 3 March A. Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, had a meeting with P. Nze, Congolese Foreign Minister, during which bilateral relations, as well as international problems, were discussed in a business-like and comradely atmosphere. (4 March 1981, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report # 044, 6 March 1981, p. P5)

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu's Speech to 26th CPSU Congress

(Summary) Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of socialist Ethiopia, delivered a speech to an evening session of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on 25 February 1981. He told his listeners that Ethiopia had become an object of special attention from the forces of imperialism and reaction who, using Somali traitors and local nationalists and separatists, provoked armed aggression in order to stifle the Ethiopian revolution. But he added, all-round assistance from the socialist community countries was capable of frustrating the designs of the imperialists. Finally, he said that with further assistance Ethiopia could build a strong socialist framework that would allow it to fulfill its international duty. [Soviet terminology often used to denote tangible rather than moral support.] (26 February 1981, p. 7 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #039, 27 February 1981, pp. 28-31.)

Meeting with Brezhnev

(Summary) On 26 February L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), met with Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the PMAC and head of the Ethiopian delegation to the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress. The two leaders discussed the effects of the congress and the great importance for increased cooperation between the CPSU and Ethiopia's Commission for the Organizing of a Party of Workers in Ethiopia (COPWE). (28 February 1981, p. 1)

Campaign Against Illiteracy

[A long article describes the efforts of the Academy of Ethiopian Languages, established in 1974, in the national campaign to eradicate illiteracy by "liberating" the national word. (9 March 1981, p. 6)]

Sanctions Urged

(Summary) The Ethiopian Herald, while commenting on the United Nations General Assembly's condemnation of the Republic of South Africa's policy toward Namibia, urged compulsory sanctions be imposed to bring an end to the illegal occupation of this country. The newspaper also brought attention to the fact that during the UN debates on Namibia the socialist community always supported the African side whereas the West defended colonialism, racism, and terrorism. (13 March 1981, p. 4)

GHANA

Communique with Senegal

(Text) A joint communique between Ghana and Senegal was signed on 22 February in Dakar by Senegalese President A. Diouf and Ghana's President H. Limann who is currently visiting Senegal. The communique declared both leaders support for the peoples of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa in their struggle against colonialism. (23 February 1981, p. 5)

IVORY COAST

Joint Military Maneuvers

(Text) France held joint military maneuvers with units of the Ivory Coast's armed forces. All together, more than 3,000 servicemen of both countries participated in the operations. (9 March 1981, p. 1)

LIBERIA

Greetings from Samuel Doe

[Senior Sergeant Samuel Doe, Head of State and Chairman of the Front for National Salvation, sent a perfunctory message of well wishes to participants and organizers of the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party. (6 March 1981, p. 4).]

MADAGASCAR

Party Talks in Moscow

(Summary) I. Arkhipov, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received Gisele Rabesahala, General Secretary of the Congress Party for Malagasy Independence, and had a talk with her. (5 March 1981, p. 7 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #046, 10 March 1981, p. J1.)

Effects of 26th CPSU Congress

(Summary) Gisele Rabesahala, General Secretary of the Party for the Independence of Madagascar, who headed the delegation to the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party held a press conference on her arrival home. She declared that the congress and the report by L. I. Brezhnev would prove to be of enormous importance for the development of peace. The Soviet communist forum, she added, during which peace was discussed contrasted sharply with the war hysteria in the United States. (12 March 1981, p. 1)

MALI

Party Talks in Moscow

(Text) On 2 March I. Arkhipov, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received Sory Coulibaly, Political Secretary of the Central Executive Bureau of the Mali People's Democratic Union Party, and had a talk with him. Djibrilla Maiga, Mali's ambassador to the USSR, took part in the talk. (3 March 1981, p. 7 and translated by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #046, 10 March 1981, p. J1.)

MAURITANIA

Coup Attempt Staged

(Summary) A coup d'etat was attempted by a military group in Mauritania. The group attacked government buildings and the presidential palace but was unsuccessful in toppling the government and was routed. A curfew has been imposed in the country and the Mauritanian government has accused Morocco of organizing the plot. Morocco, in turn, has categorically denied any involvement. Mauritania has subsequently cut diplomatic relations with Morocco. (18 March 1981, p. 5)

MOZAMBIQUE

South African Attacks

(Summary) The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa condemned the barbaric act of aggression perpetrated by the Republic of South Africa against Mozambique. (23 February 1981, p. 7)

Soviet Literature Exhibition

(Text) An exhibition of literature on the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party opened in the Mozambican city of Nampula. (24 February 1981, p. 12)

Military Attack by South Africa

(Summary) The Committee of Soviet Women reacted with deep indignation at the news of new acts of aggression by the racist Republic of South Africa (RSA) against the People's Republic of Mozambique. The Soviet women particularly condemned the armed provocation as it resulted in the slaughter of peaceful civilians, including women and children. The RSA's nuclear blackmail against its neighbors also upset the committee. (24 February 1981, p. 12)

Soviet People Indignant over South African Attacks

(Excerpt) Soviet people reacted with anger and indignation to the latest act of international banditry committed by the racists of the Republic of South Africa against Mozambique--military attack on the territory of this sovereign state--the Soviet national trade union organization declared in a statement. (25 February 1981, p. 8)

Soviet Warships Visit

(Summary) S. Machel Chairman of FRELIMO, visited the cruiser Aleksander Suvorov which is one of a group of Soviet warships on a working visit to the port of Maputo. While on board, Machel praised the work of the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress. Later, at a mass rally that took place on the pier where the cruiser was moored, Machel underscored the importance of the bonds between Mozambique and the Soviet Union. (27 February 1981, p. 1 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #041, 3 March 1981, p. J1.)

Dos Santos' Speech to 26th CPSU Congress

(Summary) Marcelino dos Santos, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), delivered a speech to an evening session of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on 27 February. In his speech he expressed gratitude for the assistance extended by the Soviet Union in the form of Soviet warship visits that began on 19 February. These ships were dispatched to Mozambique after aggression from the Republic of South Africa. Dos Santos reiterated his resolve to support the liberation struggle of the peoples of southern Africa, especially the Southern African people under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC). [It had been bases of the ANC which had been the object of the South African attacks leading to the Soviet warship visits.] (1 March 1981, pp. 3-4)

Meeting in Moscow

(Summary) Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Standing Political Committee and Secretary of the Central Committee of FRELIMO and head of the Mozambican delegation to the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, visited the Supreme Soviet on 5 March. He was met there by A. Shitikova, Representative of the Supreme Soviet, and held friendly talks on the development of parliamentary ties between the two countries. (6 March 1981, p. 4)

Expulsion of American Diplomats

(Summary) The Mozambican authorities expelled six Americans, four of whom were diplomats, from their country after it was discovered that they had conducted subversive activities in connection with the CIA and South Africa. (6 March 1981, p. 6)

CIA Activities

(Excerpt) CIA agents, posing as American diplomats, were planning the assassination of the Mozambican head of state, Samora Machel, and a number of other statesmen in order to change the path of independent development and social progress. (17 March 1981, p. 5)

NAMIBIA

Nujoma's Speech to 26th CPSU Congress

(Summary) Sam Nujoma, President of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), in a speech to the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, told his listeners that he was greatly encouraged when L. Brezhnev, in his report to the Congress, sought a stronger alliance between world socialism and the national liberation movements. Nujoma also declared that there was no longer any alternative to armed struggle since the Republic of South Africa refuses to allow a political settlement of Namibia's status. (2 March 1981, p. 6 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #045, 9 March 1981, pp. 22-23.)

UN Resumes Efforts Toward Settlement

(Summary) The 35th Session of the United Nations General Assembly convened and called for special efforts in seeking a resolution of the Namibian issue. Previous efforts, in Geneva this January, were wrecked by the Republic of South Africa after it refused to continue discussing a plan for elections in Namibia as a prelude to independence for that territory. (3 March 1981, p. 7)

Growing Consensus at UN

(Summary) There was increased unity among the participants at the 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly on the problem of Namibia's status. An expression of that unity was the call for sanctions against the Republic of South Africa that is illegally delaying Namibian independence. And the West, attempting to protect its wide-ranging interests in southern Africa, has sided with the racist South Africans. (7 March 1981, p. 5)

Victory by Patriotic Forces Draws Near

(Summary) Maintaining the status quo in Namibia--illegal occupation and repression of its inhabitants--becomes more and more difficult for the racist Republic of South Africa as opposition in the international community grows with everyday. Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO, told the 26th Congress of the Soviet

Communist Party that the day of victory for the Namibian people was nearing. But with all the progressive forces in the world--the independent countries of Africa and its socialist countries--working together the triumph of the people of Namibia can be hastened. (9 March 1981, p. 5)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Nuclear Blackmail

(Summary) The authorities in Pretoria have been the first within the capitalist world to link national liberation movements with international terrorism as urged by the new American administration. R. Bota, Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Africa (RSA), has openly declared that his nation's army would strike at "terrorists" wherever they operate in southern Africa. Going even further with outrageous blackmail was the deputy defense minister who said that the RSA has the "right" to use nuclear weapons against neighboring states if they continue to support liberation groups. (22 February 1981, p. 5)

Labor Unrest Increases

(Text) In the first eight months of 1980 there were almost twice as many strikes than during the entire previous year. (23 February 1981, p. 7)

Nzo's Speech to the 26th CPSU Congress

(Summary) Alfred Nzo, Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC) of the Republic of South Africa, in a speech to the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, told his audience that his organization was indebted for the constant support rendered by the Soviet Union. In his speech, Nzo also made direct attacks against the United States, particularly the newly-elected Reagan Administration, that would, according to him, encourage further exploitation and oppression of the Namibian people. (3 March 1981, p. 6 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #045, 9 March 1981, pp. 27-28.)

Oppression of Women and Children

(Summary) Black women in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) are subjected to mass repression and are thrown into prison solely because they demand the end to the racist social order and accompanying injustice. Tens of thousands of their children are denied the possibility of learning in schools as their demands for equal educational treatment are ignored. Forced to flee to neighboring, independent countries, they then became victims of savage attacks by the RSA's military and mercenaries making punitive forays. (8 March 1981, p. 5)

Student Strike

(Summary) Black students in Cape Town have begun a new boycott after the racist authorities refused to release students previously arrested from prison. (12 March 1981, p. 1)

Intelligence Officers' Visit to the US

(Summary) A group of South African army officers, led by an intelligence chief, visited Washington recently and met with representatives of the Pentagon and National Security Council. This visit comes as no surprise as President Reagan has publicly referred to the Republic of South Africa (RSA) as a friendly state. And the RSA finds comfort in Reagan's attempt to link liberation groups of southern Africa with terrorism. But the bonds between the US and the RSA extend back much further as the racists of Pretoria have secretly acquired arms from the United States regularly in the past. (19 March 1981, p. 5)

SENEGAL

Communique with Ghana

[See item under Ghana heading for 23 February 1981.]

SIERRA LEONE

Changes in Cabinet

(Summary) S. Stevens, President of Sierra Leone, made several changes in his cabinet after a scandal was uncovered involving several government officials. Included among those dropped from the cabinet were the ministers in charge of energy, internal affairs, and development and economic planning. (25 February 1981, p. 8)

ZAMBIA

Protocol Signed

(Summary) The Soviet Union signed a protocol with Zambia providing for assistance to Zambia's agricultural sector. This agreement is further proof of the successful development of relations between the USSR and Zambia. (25 February 1981, p. 8)

ZIMBABWE

Election Results Strengthen Patriotic Forces

(Summary) According to the Sunday Times, a Salisbury newspaper, the recent local election results have strengthened the influence of the patriotic forces in the country. The official figures indicate that the candidates of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU)-Patriotic Front, the leading political party in Zimbabwe, to have won 37 of 55 positions in the eastern part of the country. Elections in the western section of the country, where the Ndebele tribes reside, were won by representatives of the Patriotic Front party, which is part of the ruling coalition. (10 March 1981, p. 5)

Housing Program

(Text) The Government of Zimbabwe has developed a five-year plan for the construction of housing to accommodate 10,000 common workers. (12 March 1981, p. 1)